

III-21

"THERE IS NO REASON TO DIGNIFY THE UNPROVED CHARGES [OF UNITED STATES AGGRESSION AGAINST CUBA] PRESENTED BY THE COMMUNIST BLOC BY ENVELOPING THEM IN NOBLE AND HISTORIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER": Statement Made by the U.S. Representative (Plimpton) Before the U.N. General Assembly, February 20, 1962"

I would like to point out, by way of an introductory remark, that the title of this item⁶⁵ has not been changed. It will be remembered that the title reads: "Complaint by Cuba of threats to international peace and security arising from new plans of aggression and acts of intervention being executed by the Government of the United States of America against the Revolutionary Government of Cuba."

The sponsor of the draft resolution now seems to be trying, by document A/L.385/Rev.1,⁶⁶ to create the impression that the title of the item has been changed, obviously because the deliberately biased form of the title of the item clearly reveals its cold-war propaganda purpose. However, Mr. President, the title of the item has not been changed. The document itself refers three times to item 78—in the upper left-hand corner, in the heading, and in the first preambular paragraph. And item 78 still reads just the way it always has. The so-called "technical error" referred to in revision 1⁶⁷ is itself nothing but another parliamentary maneuver to obscure the fact that the draft

continuation of which is likely to increase the threat to universal peace and security.

"Recalling that it is a permanent aim of the United Nations to develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State,

"1. Makes an urgent appeal to the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Cuba and to all the actions directed against the territorial integrity and political independence of Cuba;

"2. Calls upon the Government of Cuba and the United States of America to settle their differences by peaceful means, through negotiations, without recourse to use of force."

In a paragraph-by-paragraph vote, taken Feb. 15, only the second preambular paragraph was adopted, and the resolution itself was therefore rejected.

"U.S.-U.N. press release 3928 (text as printed in the Department of State Bulletin, Apr. 2, 1962, pp. 559-561).

"I.e., agenda item 78.

"This resolution, introduced by the Representative of Mongolia, Feb. 17, 1962, read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the First Committee on agenda item 78 (A/5090),

"Recalls that it is a permanent aim of the United Nations to develop friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State."

"The official print of A/L.385/Rev. 1 carried the notation "Supersedes document A/L. 385 which contained a technical error." The unrevised text was not made public.

resolution is still a draft resolution against the background and in the context of the completely unproved Cuban charges, as set forth in the cold-war title of the item.

Mr. President, the Cuban charges of intervention and plans of aggression have been with us now for 6 months. My delegation voted long ago, last September, in favor of inscribing this item on our agenda because of our commitment to the principle that any complaint, no matter how groundless, should receive a hearing in our organization. The First Committee dealt with the Czechoslovak-Rumanian draft resolution.⁸⁸

It is instructive to review briefly the fate of this Communist cold-war effort. Not one delegate outside of the 11 Communist representatives supported the unfounded accusation of United States interference in Cuban affairs. A clear majority of the First Committee also rebuffed the apparently harmless reference to peaceful settlement of international disputes because they recognized that in the context of the Cuban charges such an affirmation of a general principle would dignify and give substance to charges that are in fact crude, defamatory, and false. The First Committee also witnessed a striking demonstration of vigor and solidarity among the nations that make up our Organization of American States. We voted as one in defense of our common cause, and it is this fact more than any words I can say that testifies to the worthlessness of the Cuban charges.

Mr. President, over this weekend we were greeted by a new exercise in parliamentary legerdemain. This will, I am confident, be equally repudiated by this Assembly. Having failed to obtain any support for the baseless charges leveled against the United States in the First Committee and having failed to enlist the backing of a single one of the 93 non-Communist members of this body for its complaint of United States interference, the Communist bloc now is trying to bring in through the back door what was thrown out at the front door. That well-known authority on Caribbean affairs, that longtime friend and nextdoor neighbor of Cuba, the Republic of Outer Mongolia, has now appeared from central Asia and placed before us a resolution which purports to innocently reaffirm the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and of noninterference in the internal affairs of any state. In voting on this parliamentary maneuver, the United States will take the following course:

First, we will vote for the preambular reference to the report of the First Committee. We welcome that report as demonstrating the fact that, after a fair hearing and thorough airing of the Cuban complaint, it was overwhelmingly rejected. We find it proper for the General Assembly to take note of this report.

Second, on the operative paragraph, which is substantially a repetition of the second preambular paragraph of the Czechoslovak-Rumanian resolution introduced in the First Committee, we shall again abstain. The obvious maneuver of Mongolia on behalf of the Communist bloc is to force other members of the Assembly into the ap-

⁸⁸ See footnote 88 to doc. III-20, *supra*.

parent dilemma of either voting against self-determination or to pass a resolution with an unintended effect. There is no reason to fall for this trick. The United States, of course, subscribes to these principles. The United States reaffirms principles which were first set forth in our Declaration of Independence and in our Constitution, as well as in the conventions and agreements of the inter-American system and the United Nations Charter. In a separate vote on the operative paragraph, we will, therefore, not vote but will abstain in the light of the context of this paragraph under the unproved Cuban allegations which are still in the title of the item.

We shall, however, vote against the resolution as a whole, and we hope that the Assembly will do likewise. There is no reason to dignify the unproved charges presented by the Communist bloc by enveloping them in noble and historic principles of the charter. A vote against the resolution as a whole will probably terminate this transparent parliamentary maneuver.

If such principles are to be reaffirmed, Mr. President, they should be proclaimed in the context of calling on the Cuban regime to stop intervening in the affairs of other American states. They should call on this regime to grant the Cuban people the right to choose freely their own form of government, to give them the right of self-determination. Those principles should voice the appeal of the free peoples of the world for restoration to the Cuban people of those equal rights spelled out so clearly in the Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter, and the Charter of the Organization of American States.

Mr. President, when this item was inscribed last August, we recognized the competence of the General Assembly to concern itself with such grave charges. We welcomed the airing of those charges, the discussion of those charges. We were gratified by the display of hemispheric unity and the support of other members who repudiated those charges. We were gratified that not one of the 93 non-Communist members of this body voted with the Communist bloc to validate those charges. We trust, Mr. President, that this Assembly will act with the same sense of responsibility and will not be trapped by a transparent maneuver, such as the one we now have before us, and will vote against this draft resolution as a whole.⁶⁹

⁶⁹ The resolution failed of adoption by a vote of 37 to 45 (including the U.S.), with 18 abstentions, taken Feb. 20.